

# Memorandum

**TO:** Andy Smith, ADOT

**CC:** Williams Gateway Corridor Definition Study - Technical Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Hugh Louch, Steve Decker, ADOT

**DATE:** May 2, 2005

**RE:** TAC Meeting Notes – 4/26/2005

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This document provides a summary of the Williams Gateway Corridor Definition Study (WGCDs) TAC meeting held on April 26, 2005.

## Project Status

Steve Decker of Cambridge Systematics described the progress of the study to date, including:

- Completion of the Pinal Corridor Planning Model (PCPM), including analysis of future base conditions in the study are for all three corridor definition studies.
- Draft of existing and future conditions technical memorandum, currently under review by ADOT. This report will be sent to the TAC within the next several weeks.
- Upcoming work on the corridor needs analysis and performance evaluation.
- Completion of the first round of open houses.

## Public Involvement

Hugh Louch of Cambridge Systematics reported on the first round of open houses held at the end of March. Two open houses were held – one in Maricopa County, in conjunction with the MAG Williams Gateway Alignment and Environmental Overview; and one in Pinal County in coordination with the ADOT US 60 Corridor Definition Study. The key themes arising from these two events that pertain to the WGCDs included:

- Economic development issues in Maricopa County;
- Population growth and the development of State Lands;
- Resulting traffic growth and congestion; and

- Coordination among the ADOT studies and with MAG.

Based on the results of the previous efforts, ADOT is proposing to hold future WGCDS events separate from the other corridor definition studies. In the joint WGCDS-US 60 open house, the Williams Gateway corridor was somewhat overshadowed by the more immediate concerns of the US 60 corridor, which passes through existing development.

## **Existing and Future Conditions**

Mr. Louch presented results of the existing and future conditions analysis, focused on future conditions. Existing conditions results were presented at the previous TAC meeting. This presentation included a focus on expected future population and employment growth, traffic growth, and the resulting level of service on the roadway system.

Mr. Louch described how the PCPM population projections compared to other sources. Close to 1.1 million people are projected in the PCPM study area, slightly more than MAG and more than three times the projection generated as part of the Arizona DES projections from 1997. Mr. Louch also presented results demonstrating the rapid rate of growth expected in Pinal County relative to Maricopa County and Las Vegas.

Mr. Louch presented the capacity levels. TAC members requested additional information about future traffic volumes and the projected jobs/housing balance in the study area. Mr. Louch noted that this information will be provided partly through the existing and future conditions technical memo and that the study teams would be putting together a document that described the PCPM and its projections in additional detail.

The TAC agreed with the socioeconomic data sources used to support the analysis including use of the Bond Feasibility Study as a viable, credible, and best available source to support the Pinal County Corridor Definition studies. While the TAC had some questions about how the PCPM would be used to support the corridor definition analysis, the TAC agreed that the modeling system was consistent with available data and methods from Pinal County, MAG, and individual jurisdictions.

## **Evaluation Methodology**

Mr. Louch presented the three key steps of the evaluation methodology, including:

- Identify potential corridor concepts for segments of the WGCDS corridor;
- Conducting a needs analysis for these concepts and developing a set of alternatives from the needs analysis; and
- Evaluating these alternatives using performance measures and determining the feasibility of the alternatives.

Mr. Louch presented the initial draft concepts to be used in the study, including a regional concept to increase the capacity of the arterial system in Pinal County. For the WGCDS, three corridor segments will be analyzed:

- Loop 202 to Meridian (within Maricopa County);
- Meridian to the North/South corridor; and
- The North/South corridor to US 60.

The concepts for the WGCDS and the other ADOT studies are defined by access control (arterial, limited, full) and number of lanes. The determination of agency responsibility will be the last step in the evaluation of the projects.

The TAC responded favorably to this evaluation process to be conducted by ADOT and its corridor definition consultants.

## **Next Steps**

The next steps for the study include:

- Conducting the needs analysis for the corridors;
- Continuing coordination efforts with the other studies; and
- Completing the evaluation methodology.

The next TAC meeting will be held in June and will include members from all three TACs.